



Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The Oxford Voter

January, 2014 “Mini Voter”

In This Issue

- ✓ Save the Dates
- ✓ Invitation to “Reflections and Directions” February 8
- ✓ Program Issues to be Discussed February 8
- ✓ LWVOx Local Program Positions of April, 2013
- ✓ Questions we would like for you to answer



Save the Dates

Saturday, February 8	10 am-2 pm	Program Planning L WVUS/Oxford /Social	Marcum
Monday, March 3	6-8 pm	L WVUS Agriculture Public Session	Lane Library
Tuesday, April 8	6-8 pm	L WVUS Agriculture Consensus	Lane Library
Tuesday, April 29	7 pm	Local Convention	LCNB Meeting Room



You are Cordially Welcomed, Invited, Wanted, and Needed to a Most Special Event...

what: Fellowship and work of members, guests, and the public to participate and/or watch League grassroots in action topped off by lunch and toasts with wine.

goal: “Reflections & Directions” (R&D) To celebrate our work together to influence public policy!

when: Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

where The Marcum Hotel and Conference Center

how: You choose (see below) what issues most interest you among “Portfolios”: Government, Social Policy, Natural Resources, International Relations (See next page.)

why: Subcommittees of League members met with Portfolio Directors to narrow the

vast number of the US League (LWVUS) and Oxford League (LWVOx) positions to those 2-4 issues they believed were most critical. If you **believe another issue** deserves conversation, you are welcome to propose the issue. **If another person agrees**, it will be added to the agenda for discussion.

who: League members led by: Representative Government, Steve Dana, Portfolio Director; Social Policy, Eva Rodriguez-Gonzales, Portfolio Director; Natural Resources, Sandi Woy-Hazelton, Portfolio Director; International Relations, Jackie Rioja Velarde and Warren Mason, discussion leaders; Moderator: Sally Southard, Vice President, Program. Recorder: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Secretary.

rsvp: Mail (via the post office!) **your reservation and check** for \$13 for lunch (\$15 at the door]) **by Tuesday, February 5** to Sandy Drewes, 477 White Oak Drive, Oxford 45056, drewess@miamioh.edu, phone 664-6919. Checks should be made payable to Marcum Hotel and Conference Center. Vegetarian and other special diets are available with advance notice. Wine and non-alcoholic drink will be available.

Board members will be telephoning to emphasize the invitation and encourage attendance.

your choice: Email **your choice among Portfolios** (Representative Government, Social Policy, Natural Resources, International Relations) **by Tuesday, February 4** to Sally Southard (sally@southard.net). For your ease, we provided the Internet connection (URL) to the US League position statements; there you can read background on the issue most important to you.

We look forward to greeting you ...at a most special event...

Sally Southard, Vice-President, Program



**LWVUS and LWVOx Program Issues to be Discussed
On February 8, 2014 at the “Reflections and Directions” discussion and luncheon**

Representative Government:

Portfolio Director: Steve Dana

LWVUS: http://www.lwv.org/files/loi2012_RepGovt.pdf pp. 8-14

(1) Citizen's Right to Vote-**Prioritize for Legislative Action.** The Supreme Court recently repealed a key section of the 1965 Voting Rights Act: striking down that states must pre-clear with the federal government changes to their voting procedures or laws.

(2) Citizens Right to Know/Citizen Participation-**new study.** New information about the National Security Administration behavior creates the need for a study.

LWVOx

Local government finance – **a new study:** Ohio municipalities and townships are negatively impacted by state’s elimination of inheritance tax and reduction in local gov’t funds traditionally shared by state.

Social Policy:

Portfolio Director: Eva Rodríguez-González

LWVUS: http://www.lwv.org/files/loI2012_SocPol.pdf pp. 58-80

1. Immigration pp. 71-72
2. Quality Education pp. 58-60; pp. 63-66

LWVOx

1. Support: high degree of excellence in education based on flexible blend of state/ local funding
2. Support of an effective recreation and parks program
3. Support of human services

Natural Resources:

Portfolio Director: Sandi Woy-Hazelton

LWVUS http://www.lwv.org/files/loI2012_NatRes.pdf pp. 43-55

1. climate change
2. fracking
3. protection of drinking water quality pp. 48-49; 51

LWVOx

The January 13, 2014 meeting discussion concerned new wording to the Natural Resources Program. Copies will be available to discuss further.

International Relations:

Co-Discussion Leaders: Jacque Rioja-Velarde, Warren Mason

LWVUS http://www.lwv.org/files/loI2012_IR.pdf

1. Trade pp. 34-36
2. US Relations with Developing Countries pp. 36-39
3. United Nations pp. 31-34



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OXFORD LOCAL PROGRAM POSITIONS Approved April 2013

GOVERNMENT

- Support of the HOME RULE CHARTER for the City of Oxford (1963).
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE: Support of sound fiscal policies and practices for the City of Oxford that: provide for the basic needs of the citizens; are based on a mix of progressive and regressive revenues and rational expenditures; allow revenue sources to be earmarked; promote user fees which are more consistent with actual cost; encourage the State of Ohio to reimburse the city for the actual cost of services provided to Miami University; allow for the use of incentives to entice business; and include the school district in the tax abatement process (1990).

- Support the use of PREFERENCE VOTING for Oxford City Council and Talawanda City School District elections (1997).

SOCIAL POLICY

- Support of AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL REMODELING AND BUILDING PROGRAM where educational goals can be maintained with teachers, parents and taxpayers involved in the planning (1985).
- Support of a HIGH DEGREE OF EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL EDUCATION BASED ON FLEXIBLE BLEND OF STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING, supplemented with federal funding. This means that:
 - Additional local, state and federal support for education means that citizens must support additional taxation;
 - Federal money for specific programs which meet local needs should be encouraged (1978); and
 - Revise the school funding formula according to the decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court (2005).
- Support LIBRARY FACILITIES AND SERVICE in the City of Oxford and the Talawanda School District (1970; amended 2005).
- Support of an effective RECREATION AND PARKS PROGRAM including:
 - Specific delineation of the duties and responsibilities of the Recreation Board;
 - Long-range recreation planning;
 - A capital improvements fund for recreation; and
 - Cooperation with groups involved with recreation in the Talawanda School District (1975).
- Support for the SENIOR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITY CENTER for the provision of services and activities to older citizens in the Oxford area financed by public and private funding (1979, amended 1982).
- Support of LOCAL TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED in the Oxford area financed by public and private funding (1979; amended 2010, 2013)
- Support of HUMAN SERVICES, especially children's services, for Butler County and the Oxford community through both public and private agencies; support of services for children and their families, including: (a) professional diagnosis of social, learning, medical and psychological/psychiatric disabilities, and (b) innovation and coordination of quality programs for protection, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, including temporary care (1986).
- PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION: Support of environmentally responsible approaches in and around Oxford for self-supporting management of cars, creation of bicycle paths, improved sidewalk or pedestrian access, and public transportation. Such approaches would consider: the creation of a parking authority to operate and finance parking; a master bike plan – safe, designated and integrated with other systems, proper bicycle education about safe riding behavior and the use of safety helmets, and cost of existing public transportation and alternative services for test populations (1997; amended 2005, 2010, 2013).
- Support of current & future CITY EFFORTS TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF HOUSING for low & moderate households.
 - Increase housing options for: seniors, the disabled, first-time home buyers, residents who live in substandard housing, and households that earn their living in Oxford.
 - Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within the community.
 - Support strategies including: public and private partnerships and grants, development agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund. (2005, 2013)

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Support of policies and practices that are the most environmentally sound and the most economically feasible, and support interjurisdictional solutions for growth management (amended 2005).
 - WATER
 - Promoting water conservation
 - Maintaining high quality water with any additional treatment being done only with public support
 - Improving the wastewater treatment plant and rehabilitating the sewer pipes using both federal & local government funds.
 - SOLID WASTE

- Promoting recycling using both private and public funds.
- LAND USE
 - Using the properly secured and closed landfill for recreational purposes
 - Requiring an impact study for all annexation requests and land use plans
 - Providing city services (water and waste water) to individual sites meeting criteria outside city limits and not to area developments
 - Annexing land that the city now provides with city services (1983)
- LOCAL ENERGY: Support of locally initiated community-based collaborative projects for energy conservation through the following actions:
 - Propose that the City of Oxford investigate the option of municipal aggregation of residential energy purchases
 - Support strategies which increase cooperation and participation with other governmental and institutional entities on energy savings projects
 - Promote League involvement in discussion of details on government contracts pertaining to energy conservation with special attention to the balance between economic and environmental benefits (2013)



Your Answers to These Questions Will Help Us Make Decisions

1. What is it about the LWV Ox that makes you willing to renew your membership each year?
2. What would you do if the LWV Ox had more members?
3. What if the LWV Ox had a larger budget? How would that affect you?

Please send your comments to Eva Rodríguez-González at evitarg@gmail.com